

OREGON CROP WEATHER



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Week Ending: September 19, 2004

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Weather: A very wet and cool week across the State, with temperatures generally below normal. High temperatures ranged in the upper sixties and seventies, with overnight lows in the thirties and forties. Freezing overnight temperatures were recorded in central and south-central counties. Weekly precipitation in many areas was above normal, significantly aiding topsoil moisture levels. However, the increased rainfall put a halt to many fall fieldwork activities. Rainfall along the coast was in excess of three inches in many areas. Snow was noted in areas of higher elevation in Lake County. Growing degree days (base 50F) were as high as 85 in Grants Pass.

Field Crops: Wet weather has slowed fall seeding across the State. Tillage and fertilizing operations continued as weather permitted. While the recent precipitation has improved soil moisture conditions, it has also aided cheat and goat grass germination in north central Oregon. Corn for silage harvest continued in Yamhill County, but the wet conditions have some producers concerned about soil compaction.

Fruit and Nuts: Pear and apple harvests continued in the Hood River Valley, although periodically disrupted by rain throughout the week. Apples and pears were also harvested throughout the Willamette Valley. Jackson County was mainly harvested Bosc pears last week. Berries were just about finished in all counties. Hazelnut harvest should begin as soon as the weather clears; recent rains and wind put some of the crop on the ground. Rain and cool weather made grape growers anxious in Yamhill County. Harvest of early grape varieties began late last week.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries are preparing soil for fall sets and looking forward to starting fall harvest. Greenhouses are working with holiday plants and moving fall plants to garden centers. On the southern Oregon coast, Easter lily growers continue with harvest, sorting, and planting activities of Easter lily bulbs. Christmas tree growers are doing the last shearing of Christmas trees and checking over harvest equipment.

Vegetables: Vegetable harvest continued across western Oregon last week. Vegetable stands in Jackson County were busy with corn, tomatoes, melons, cucumbers, and onions, while Marion and Washington counties were busy harvesting sweet corn. Tomatoes showed an increase in production in Washington County and cole crops were also growing well. In Clackamas County, pumpkins were coloring slowly. As for eastern Oregon, potato harvest started with reports from Baker and Klamath counties. Recent showers in Malheur County disrupted the harvest of beans, onions, and potatoes.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastures and rangeland continued to benefit from recent precipitation. A few areas reported the need for rain, but overall conditions were favorable for fall pasture growth. All that is needed in many areas is some warmer weather for re-growth. Rangeland in eastern Oregon continued to improve with some fall range areas turning green. Cattle continued to be moved from forest allotments and summer grazing areas into fall and winter pastures. Producers were busy weaning calves and working herds. Livestock were reported in good condition throughout the State.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 9/19/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley harvested (%)	96	94	100	93
Spring Wheat harvested (%)	98	96	100	100
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.7	6.5	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 9/19/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	6	25	69	—
Subsoil (%)	11	48	41	—

Crop Condition - Week Ending 9/19/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	4	15	42	33	6

CLACKAMAS: Early fall rains put a hold on field preparations. Still some apples to harvest. Hazelnuts about ready for sweeping after the weather clears. Blackberries finished. Pumpkins coloring slowly. Mildew starting to show on cucurbita. Limited activity at most nurseries. Dryland pastures liking the rain but could use higher temperatures to spur growth. Livestock in good shape.

COOS/CURRY: Excess moisture from recent rains at some cranberry farms, together with a longer growing season and above average vegetative growth, may lead to higher than average field fruit rot this season. Easter lily growers continued with harvest, sorting, and planting activities. Livestock mostly good. Rain will bring new life to pastures. Significant rain on the south coast, especially north of Brookings. Days since precipitation of 0.25 inches or more at Brookings-Harbor: 0 days, at Bandon: 0 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 59.1 at Bandon to 59.7 deg F at Brookings-Harbor; highs ranged from 69.9 at Bandon to 74.5 deg F at Brookings-Harbor, and lows ranged from 48.9 at Bandon to 51.1 deg F at Brookings-Harbor. Precipitation ranged from 0.98 inches at Brookings-Harbor to 3.21 inches at Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 63 GDD at Bandon to 71 GDD at Brookings-Harbor. Rainfall was especially heavy on the 17th and 18th during the week, with overcast conditions prevailing throughout the early morning hours.

JACKSON: Vegetable stands busy with corn, tomatoes, melons, cucumbers and onions. Still lots of late summer vegetables and melons being harvested. Mostly for fresh use. Still a few fields of grain standing, but if weather permits will probably be cut next week. Second cutting of grass hay still being done. Also some third cutting of alfalfa. More field preparation being done for fall grain planting. Apple and pear harvest still going on. Mostly Bosc pears now. Some early grapes being picked. Greenhouses busy getting out fall plants. Mostly decorative plants, but some fall vegetable starts also. Nurseries still busy with watering, feeding, and other plant maintenance. Keeping good pasture for livestock is taking lots of irrigation. The few sprinkles were not enough to get good fall pasture started. Livestock on good pasture looking quite good. Temperatures were below normal.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Grass seed being prepared for fall seeding. Still some day neutral strawberry varieties and some late blueberry varieties. Still a few blackberries. Nice apple crop. Peaches nearing end. Some late summer brown rot due to heavy rains. Hazelnuts falling and picking will soon begin. Greenhouses and nurseries have some production but sales are slowing down, other than flowering plants. Fields sprouting with the rain. Still a few blackberries. Nice walnut crop. Nice summer vegetable crop. Harvest slowing down. Heavy weather front moved in on Thursday night, holding up ground preparation work for the weekend. Very wet for September. Now doing activities like sprout spray control on grass seed.

MARION: Harvest of most field crops completed. Still some red clover seed fields waiting for dry weather so threshing can continue. There are scattered spring grain and bentgrass seed fields that are waiting for some drier weather so they can be harvested. Quality of both will be pretty low. Fall herbicide applications made to grass seed fields as needed. Fieldwork continues in preparation for planting perennial ryegrass and winter wheat. Some fall fertilizer applications made to seed fields. Still a few flower seed fields to harvest. Hop and mint harvest completed. Sweet corn harvest continued. Nut crop harvest is about to start, with the recent rain and wind having put a lot of the crop on the ground. Winter squash harvested and grass and pastures growing well.

WASHINGTON: Field corn harvest being ensiled. Too wet for making hay. Blueberries and blackberries winding down. Hazelnuts falling; walnuts full size. Sweet corn for processing continues to be harvested. Tomatoes showing some increase in production. Cole crops growing well. Potatoes being harvested. Greenhouses and nurseries preparing soil for fall sets. Greenup good; growth helping offset supplemental feeding. Some fields being planted to grass for seed. Fall wheat seeding started.

YAMHILL: Rain and cooler weather this week has grape growers a little edgy. Harvest of early varieties began late in the week. Field corn for silage and sweet corn continue to be harvested, but working on wet soil is very hard on the soil. Could cause problem for next year.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Some third cutting hay wet. Grain harvest is pretty much over. Potato harvest started. Cattle doing well. Some cattle being removed from forest allotments.

HARNEY: Scattered rain, high humidity and cool nights delayed third and fourth alfalfa crop harvest. Weaning began. A few calves shipped early. Prices strong.

HOOD RIVER: Pear and apple harvest continued in the Hood River Valley, although periodically disrupted by rain throughout the week.

KLAMATH: Barley, wheat, and oat harvest continued. Storage continued to be a problem. Cooler and freezing temperatures this week. Some fourth cutting hay continued. Harvest for early varieties of potatoes has begun.

LAKE: Cooler morning and afternoon temperatures throughout the week. Received some precipitation over the weekend with snow in the higher elevations. Livestock producers started to gather their cattle off the summer pastures.

MALHEUR: Cool weather all of last week. Showers are slowing down the harvest of beans, onions, and potatoes. Fall range is greening up. Most irrigation reservoirs have run dry.

SHERMAN: Showers off and on all week continued to cause delays in plans for early grain seeding. While farmers appreciate the extra moisture for the seedbed, it also means extra effort to kill new cheatgrass in the fields before seeding. Some fall fertilizing, two of the regular early birds seeding, and lots of weed control dominated the work agenda. Seed sales ahead of schedule, but little seeding activity yet. Lots of rain with patches of blue throughout the week. Everyone is waiting for a break to continue cultivating emerging cheat and goat grass and then turn around and seed.

UNION: Wet weather continued to delay grain and mint harvest. This week started out fairly mild in the Grande Rhonde Valley, but by the end of the week there was a definite chill in the air. Luckily, almost all the above-ground harvests are completed, with just a few late gatherings of some grains and last minute haying being done. Range and pasture conditions are still very good for this time of year. However, some ranchers started to gather their herds and return them to their winter pastures. There has been some dustings of snow in the higher elevations, but nothing of a permanent nature yet. Most are waiting to see if there will be an "Indian Summer" this year. So far it is not looking too good as the skies continue to cloud up and the temperatures continue to drop.

WALLOWA: Not much change in the weather from the last couple of weeks. A lot of hay and grain are still waiting to be harvested, but weather is too wet to cooperate. Range conditions are improving with all of the moisture. Forecast is for more of the same next week.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON - Week Ending September 19, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK'S PRECIPITATION			SEASON CUMULATIVE PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	48	66	58	-1	58	0	2.92	2.22	7	4.19	2.52	251	15
Crescent City	50	68	59	1	65	7	0.93	0.52	5	0.95	-0.03	97	7
Florence	46	70	58	-3	59	-10	3.58	2.99	6	4.50	3.10	321	8
North Bend	48	70	59	0	65	4	5.49	5.07	5	5.68	4.65	551	7
Tillamook	42	67	57	-1	50	-3	6.07	5.16	7	7.43	5.25	341	12
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	50	75	61	-1	78	-2	1.77	1.42	6	2.09	1.21	238	9
Eugene	46	73	60	-4	70	-18	1.22	0.80	5	2.04	1.02	200	9
Hillsboro	46	70	58	-3	59	-15	1.00	0.65	6	1.19	0.28	131	9
McMinnville	47	70	58	-4	60	-20	1.44	1.04	7	1.69	0.73	176	11
Portland AP	49	71	60	-4	72	-20	0.88	0.46	6	1.01	-0.09	92	9
Salem	48	72	59	-3	65	-14	1.59	1.22	6	2.08	1.17	229	10
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	47	78	62	-4	85	-17	0.20	-0.01	2	0.20	-0.30	40	2
Medford	43	78	61	-5	78	-28	0.02	-0.19	1	0.02	-0.52	4	1
Roseburg AP	47	75	62	-2	84	-10	0.98	0.70	4	1.17	0.46	165	8
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	35	68	53	-5	25	-27	0.59	0.45	4	0.59	0.09	118	4
Heppner	38	67	55	-6	38	-36	0.77	0.56	5	0.80	0.30	160	6
Hermiston AP	37	74	59	-4	62	-27	0.16	0.08	2	0.16	-0.16	50	2
John Day	37	66	54	-5	30	-33	0.17	-0.04	4	0.47	-0.10	82	5
Moro	34	68	55	-5	36	-27	0.40	0.26	7	0.50	0.12	132	9
Pendleton AP	39	71	58	-5	61	-28	0.28	0.14	4	0.37	-0.01	97	5
The Dalles	40	73	60	0	68	1	0.43	0.29	5	0.43	0.05	113	5
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	28	69	50	-5	13	-31	0.02	-0.09	1	0.91	0.56	260	3
Burns	26	73	48	-7	1	-38	0.15	0.01	4	0.27	-0.11	71	5
Klamath Falls	33	72	49	-11	6	-58	0.01	-0.11	1	0.01	-0.32	3	1
Lakeview	27	73	47	-11	3	-50	0.06	-0.08	1	0.06	-0.32	16	1
Redmond	24	70	50	-7	13	-39	0.01	-0.06	1	0.08	-0.21	28	5
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	32	70	51	-6	13	-38	0.13	-0.02	3	0.77	0.26	151	5
Joseph	35	62	48	-5	3	-28	0.58	0.24	4	1.55	0.73	189	6
La Grande AP	36	68	53	-7	25	-43	0.46	0.25	4	0.68	0.09	115	6
Union	34	71	53	-4	26	-28	0.62	0.40	6	0.84	0.14	120	8
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	42	72	57	-6	49	-39	0.07	-0.07	2	0.31	-0.07	82	3
Rome	38	84	57	-2	55	-13	0.24	0.10	2	0.32	-0.06	84	3

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday, September 1, 2004.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Oregon Crop Weather 25-04
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